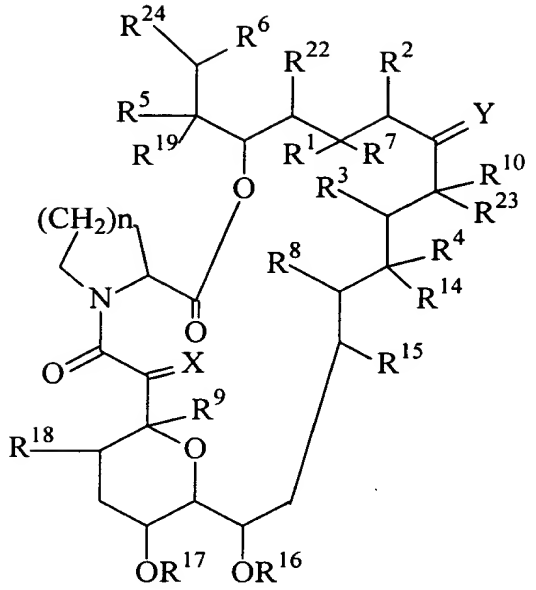

(I)

wherein

the mammal is suffering from arthritis;

the macrolide compound of the formula (I) provides a topical analgesic effect;

each of adjacent pairs of R^1 and R^2, R^3 and R^4, and R^5 and R^6 independently

(a) are two adjacent hydrogen atoms, wherein R^2 may also be an alkyl group or

(b) may form another bond formed between the carbon atoms to which they are attached;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, a protected hydroxy group, an alkoxy group, and an oxo group together with R^1;

R^8 and R^9 are independently a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkyl group substituted by one or more hydroxy groups, an alkenyl group, an alkenyl group substituted by one or more hydroxy groups, and an alkyl group substituted by an oxo group;

X is selected from the group consisting of an oxo group; a hydrogen atom and a hydroxy group; a hydrogen atom and a hydrogen atom; and a group represented by the formula $-CH_2O-$;

Y is selected from the group consisting of an oxo group;a hydrogen atom and a hydroxy group; a hydrogen atom and a hydrogen atom; and a group represented by the formula $N-NR^{11}R^{12}$ or $N-OR^{13}$;

R^{11} and R^{12} are independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group and a tosyl group;

R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{22} and R^{23} are independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group;

R^{24} is an optionally substituted ring system which may contain one or more heteroatoms;

n is an integer of 1 or 2; and

wherein Y, R^{10} and R^{23}, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, may represent a saturated or unsaturated 5- or 6-membered nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen containing heterocyclic ring optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from the group consisting of an alkyl, a hydroxy, an alkoxy, a benzyl, a group of the formula $-CH_2Se(C_6H_5)$, and an alkyl substituted by one or more hydroxy groups;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the macrolide compound is FK 506 or a hydrate thereof.

18. The method of Claim 15, wherein the macrolide compound is administered in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable composition which further comprises a carrier or excipient.